

observed, the plates being kept buried under the Micco (or king's) cabin in Tuckabatche until the annual Green Corn Dance, when on the fourth day they were brought to light by one of the high prophets and cleaned, after which was enacted the ceremony of the Brass Plate Dance.

When the Tuckabatches, in 1836, took up the line of march for the Indian Territory, these plates were carried by six chosen warriors, led by Spoke-oak Micco, their chief. They were strapped behind their backs, and the bearers were not permitted to speak or otherwise communicate with a member of the emigration party, they being obliged to walk one mile in advance of the others. To the present day the old customs are adhered to, and the brass plates are sacredly hidden until the fourth day of the Tuckabatche busk or corn dance, when they are used as above described. The full-bloods believe that great danger, and even fatality, is in store for him who touches, or even looks intently at these plates, so that there is little fear of their ever falling into wrong hands.

About the year 1720, the Muskogees having acquired a great reputation for their wisdom in council and their many conquests, were called upon to receive into their confederation an additional number of weaker tribes, among whom were the Tuskegees, Ozeills and a small band of Natchez, survivors of a disastrous war with the French. The Muskogees, who appear to have been a hospitable race, readily consented to adopt these and a host of smaller bands, till in the year 1798, says Col. Hawkins in his "Sketches of the Creek Country," there were seventy-seven towns. Forty-nine of these were classified as the Upper towns and twenty-eight as the Lower. The Tuckabatche, which was situated on the left bank of the Tallapoosa river, was in point of importance the leading of the Upper towns, being the seat of their capital. Among other prominent Upper towns were Talise, or Tulsie, Tuskegie, Okfuskie, Hillubie, Autossee and Eufaula,